

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01029 312203Z

72

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-09 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /133 W

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R 312122Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9714

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

UNCLAS USUN 1029

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, CV

SUBJECT: UN APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER DATED 26 MARCH FROM UN SYG WALDHEIM HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY USUN FOR FORWARDING TO THE SECRETARY. LETTER IS AN APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS FOR 1975, 1976 AND 1977. REQUEST DEPT FURNISH LANGUAGE FOR RESPONSE.

2. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE REFERENCE: EC 111/2 (7) 26 MARCH 1975

SIR,

THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS HAS ASKED THAT I SHOULD MAKE AN INTERNATIONAL APPEAL ON THEIR BEHALF FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEALING NOT ONLY WITH THE MOST DIFFICULT CONDITIONS WHICH EXIST AT THE PRESENT TIME BUT ALSO IN DEVELOPING THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE ISLANDS AS QUICKLY  
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01029 312203Z

AS POSSIBLE.

THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS URGENTLY NEED TWO SEPARATE BUT INTER-RELATED TYPES OF ASSISTANCE. THE FIRST IS REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO LIFE WHICH HAS COME ABOUT FOLLOWING A CONTINUOUS DROUGHT WHICH IS NOW ENTERING ITS SEVENTH YEAR, COMBINED WITH AN ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES. THE LATTER CONDITION IS BEST ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT IN 1973 MINIMUM IMPORTS COST US \$40 MILLION BUT EXPORTS WERE ONLY US \$2 MILLION.

IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO ASSUME THAT THESE ISLANDS COULD ACHIEVE MUCH IN THE WAY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS, AND I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE REALISTICALLY THE FACT THAT RELIEF MEASURES WILL BE ESSENTIAL AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF 1977.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY US \$40 MILLION WILL BE REQUIRED IN 1975 SIMPLY TO PRESERVE LIFE AT A VERY MODEST LEVEL. THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL PROVIDE ABOUT HALF THIS SUM. US \$20 MILLION IS THEREFORE NEEDED URGENTLY TO MEET IMMEDIATE RELIEF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR. I HAVE ALREADY ARRANGED FOR ALL THE APPROPRIATE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE WITHOUT DELAY.

IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT ANY IMPROVEMENT IN 1976 AND 1977 AND, HAVING REGARD TO THE PRESENT WORLD-WIDE PATTERN OF INFLATION, IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO ASSUME THAT MINIMUM EXPENDITURE IN THE ORDER OF US \$50 MILLION WILL BE REQUIRED IN EACH OF THOSE YEARS.

THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS NATURALLY WISHES TO BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. IN SEEKING THIS OBJECTIVE IT FACES FORMIDABLE DIFFICULTIES NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE MOST UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT EXIST AT THE PRESENT TIME, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARE LIMITED, AND A VIABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE DOES NOT EXIST AT THE PRESENT TIME. VALUABLE MANPOWER HAS EMIGRATED FROM THE ISLANDS IN RECENT YEARS, AND WHILE IT

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01029 312203Z

IS ANTICIPATED THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS WILL NOW RETURN, IT WILL BE AN EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT MATTER TO DEPLOY THIS MANPOWER QUICKLY INTO PRODUCTIVE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF WILL NEED TO EVOLVE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY FOR PLANNING THE USE OF ITS RESOURCES AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT, AND WILL THEREFORE REQUIRE TECHNICAL IN ADDITION TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THIS ASSISTANCE

REPRESENTS A SEPARATE, BUT DIRECTLY RELATED REQUIREMENT  
TO IMMEDIATE RELIEF NEEDS.

AS SECRETARY-GENERAL I WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN  
TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AS A WHOLE PROVIDES  
WHATEVER HELP IS POSSIBLE. I TRUST THAT MEMBER STATES WILL  
ALSO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO PROVIDE THE CAPE VERDE  
ISLANDS WITH THEIR IMMEDIATE RELIEF NEEDS, AND ALSO TO ASSIST  
THEM WITH THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL WELCOME  
ASSISTANCE FROM ANY SOURCE WHETHER MULTILATERAL OR BILATERAL.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY BE REQUIRED BY MEMBER STATES  
CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
IN PRAIA, OR FROM THE OFFICE OF SIR ROBERT JACKSON AT UNITED  
NATIONS HEADQUARTERS. SHOULD ANY GOVERNMENT FIND IT DIFFICULT  
TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE CAPE  
VERDE ISLANDS, MY OFFICE WILL BE READY TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY  
FACILITIES FOR COMMUNICATION.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

KURT WALDHEIM  
SECRETARY-GENERAL UNQUOTE  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 MAR 1975  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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